



(Translation)

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FINAL NOTICE OF REJECTION

Patent Application No.: 2000-196910

Examiner's Notice Date: June 19, 2002

Examiner: J. Kooriyama

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This application is rejected on the grounds stated below. Any opinion about the rejection must be filed within 60 days of the mailing date hereof.

REASON

The invention recited in the following claims is unpatentable under Section 29 (2) of the Patent Law, as being such that the invention could easily have been made by a person with ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains, on the basis of the invention described in the following publication(s) distributed in Japan or a foreign country prior to this application.

REMARKS

(1) Re claim 1: References 1 and 2

Reference 1 discloses a first rotary disk 15 (corresponding to one "rotary conveying mechanism" of the present invention), which supplies compressed gas to a plastic bottle. The plastic bottle is transferred from the rotary disk 15 to rotary transfer means 16, and passed to a second rotary disk 18 (corresponding to another "rotary conveying mechanism" of the present invention), which has a processing mechanism for receiving the sample.

The present invention is different from the invention described in Reference 1 in the following respects: the present invention has a rotary transfer arm, whereas the invention described in Reference 1 has the rotary

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transfer means 16.

However, it is well known in this field to use a rotary transfer arm to pass a bottle, as described in Reference 2.

Therefore, the present invention could have been obtained merely by using the known transfer arm as disclosed in Reference 2 or the like in place of the rotary transfer means 16 for transference and reception between the rotary conveying mechanisms.

(2) Re claim 2: References 1-5

In addition to the above reason (1), Reference 2 discloses distribution from the master specimen container to a slave specimen container and adhesion of an identification label to the slave specimen container.

References 3 and 4 disclose detection of an available region and use of a pipetting tip.

The present invention could have been obtained by merely combining the matters disclosed in these references and easily expected from them.

References:

1. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 1-131450
2. Japanese Utility Model Application No. 3-48766 (Jpn. UM Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 3-48766)
3. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2000-88861
4. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 10-148633
5. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 4-372861

This Final Notice of Rejection indicates only a reason for rejection, which has occurred due to the amendment filed in response to the first Official Action.

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